

***Committee on Economic & Community Development,***

***Housing and Land Use***

*Councilor Jesse M. Adams, Chair*

*Councilor Ryan R. O'Donnell*

*Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra*

*Councilor Paul D. Spector*

*Kevin Lake, Conservation Commission liaison*

*Ann DeWitt Brooks, Planning Board liaison*

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**City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street**

**Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building**

**Northampton, MA**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**October 7, 2014**

**5:00pm**

**10/7/2014 - Minutes**

**1. Members Present/Absent**

Present: Councilor Adams, Councilor O'Donnell, Councilor Sciarra, Ann DeWitt, Kevin Lake (5:05pm arrival)

Absent: Councilor Spector

**2. Meeting Called To Order**

At 5:00 pm Councilor Adams called the meeting to order.

**3. Announcement Of Audio/Video Recording Of Meeting**

Councilor Adams announced that the meeting would be audio and video recorded.

**4. Public Comment**

None

**5. Approval Of Minutes**

**5.1. Minutes Of July 1, 2014**

Councilor O'Donnell moved to approve the minutes of July 1, 2014; Councilor Sciarra seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

**6. Ordinance: Plastic Bag And Styrofoam Ordinance (14.229)**

Councilor Adams shared how he and Councilor Spector came to sponsor this Ordinance. Regarding other communities that have similar plastic bag restrictions, this proposal has been benchmarked w/ Amherst & Brookline. Plastic bags take a very long time to degrade. Environmental concerns was the major justification for drafting this legislation.

Regarding how this Ordinance would impact smaller businesses—very small business (those <2,000sq.ft. in retail space) would be exempt. This ordinance targets the use of bags 3.0 mils or less & those intended for single use transport only. Bags that are 3 mils or thicker are considered multiple use bags and would not be covered by this Ordinance. Businesses that use 3 mils or thicker do not have to change their practices. Bags must be reusable, compostable or biodegradable.

Also defined in the Ordinance:

- Use of Drycleaning Plastic is exempt as there is likely unavailable alternative.

- Hospitals, nursing homes, churches would be exempt. Food banks, soup kitchens are exempt as well.
- Board of Health is suggested as the policing body.
- Penalties: Warning; \$50 first & \$100 second and subsequent
- Ordinance does not apply to bags purchased prior to the Ordinance.
- Deferment available: One year hardship period if a business cannot comply with requirements; two extensions offered.
- Date of effect: Nov. 1, 2016; this Ordinance may be re-visited if the State follows through with a law. If the State Legislature passes a similiar law before the City does, it will be necessary to compare the state vs. city ordinance and then determine if the Ordinance is still required.

7. Ordinance: 40-5, Sec. 272-18 Solid Waste Penalites & Fines (14.245)

Councilor O'Donnell move to amend 272-18 to read Health Department instead of Board of Health. Councilor Sciarra seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

Councilor O'Donnell moved to continue both Ordinances to the next Comm. on ECDHLU meeting: Councilor Sciarra seconded the motion; the motion passed on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

Ann Brooks—refer to as.

8. New Business

None

9. Adjourn

Councilor Sciarra moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 pm. Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion; the motion passed on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.